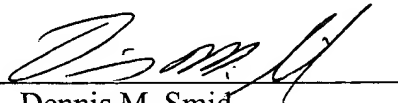


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Respectfully submitted,

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New Patent Application filed **December 23, 1999**, entitled:

**DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL APPARATUS**

**AND METHOD OF THE SAME**

corresponding to PCT Application No. PCT/JP99/02243

filed April 27, 1999

Express Mail No.: EL295739996US

Date of Deposit: December 23, 1999

I hereby certify that this application and accompanying papers are being deposited  
with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37  
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